

# PRIMED FOR DOE

## **CH2M HILL to lead decommissioning characterization phase at historic Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory**

CH2M HILL has a six-year, \$19 million prime contract to perform the first characterization phase for the decommissioning of the Separations Process Research Unit facilities and soils, located at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Schenectady, New York.

The facility operated from 1950 to 1954 as a pilot plant for the Redox and Purex chemical processes, where uranium and plutonium were extracted from irradiated fuel. The activities resulted in contamination of the facilities and surrounding environment.



The project is CH2M HILL's first prime contract with the U.S. Department of Energy. The firm's other DOE prime contracts are bid and managed as limited liability corporations (such as Rocky Flats in Colorado and Hanford Tank Farm in Washington) that typically "inherit" an incumbent workforce and compliance structure.

The Knolls project team has been challenged with establishing

an entirely new infrastructure and compliance base (procedures, program plans, waste management plan, integrated safety management, etc.) from the ground up.

The project is a tremendous opportunity for CH2M HILL to demonstrate technical and managerial expertise and ultimately take the infrastructure and compliance procedures developed for Knolls to similar sites in the future. "This project really enhances CH2M HILL's credibility and capability to obtain additional decommissioning and Department of Energy remedial action jobs," said Brian Mathis, project manager.